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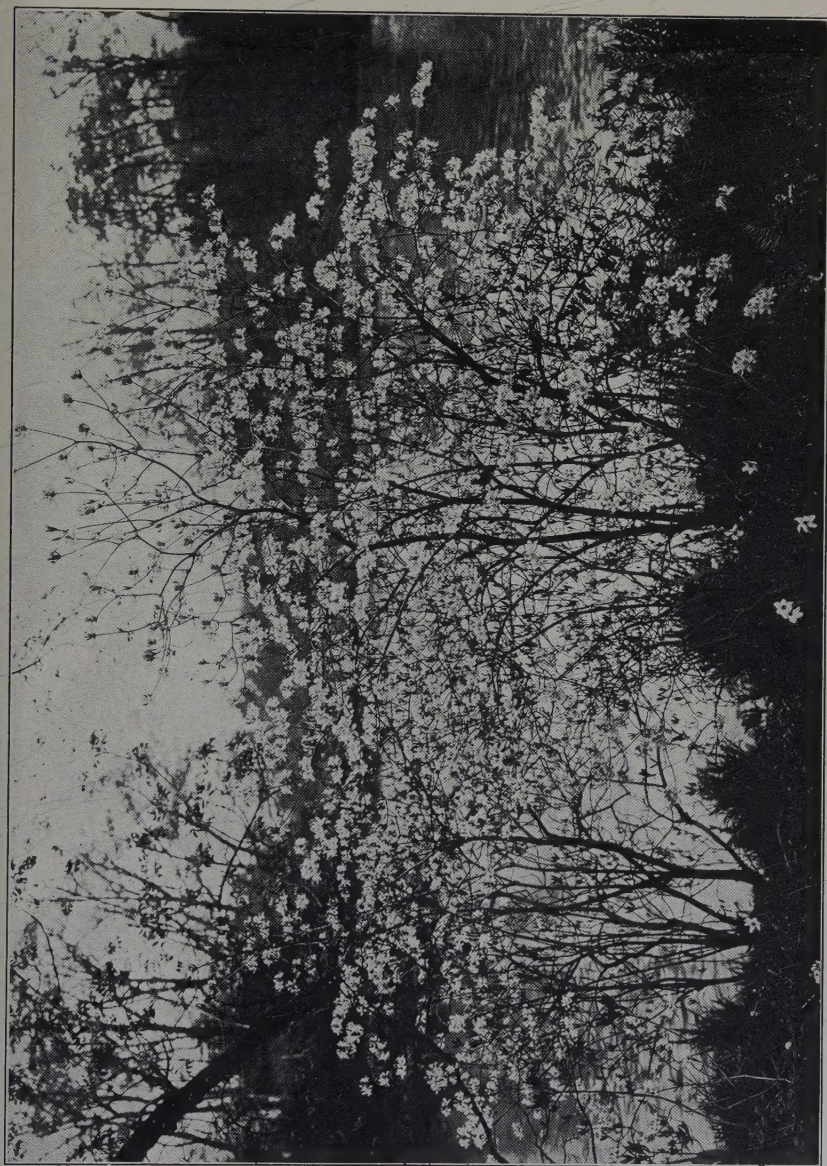
Conifers and Yews. In the northern parts of the world where broad-leaf evergreens are few and the trees and shrubs are bare of leaves for half the year, narrow-leaf evergreens are of special value. In such parts of America they have been favorites since gardens were first planted and they are assured of lasting popularity. In lands where broad-leaf evergreens in great variety can be grown, Conifers and Yews may be subject to the whim of fashion, but it is quite different here when the real need is for greater variety of strictly hardy sorts. Restful and beautiful at all seasons of the year, Conifers and Yews are particularly so just now when their young shoots are pushing off the winter bud-scales and unfolding a mass of light green leaves. On many the male flowers in red-purple or yellow catkins are very conspicuous and as these catkins ripen, if a branch be shaken, pollen is liberated in clouds. The Spruces and Firs push out their frond-like, young growth in advance of the upright tassels of the Pines. Earliest of all, and at the moment the most beautiful, are the Hemlocks whose young branches with their bright green leaves light up the dark mass of old foliage. As the buds expand the effect is as if the trees had been peppered with pale green; later a curtain of cheerful green is spread over the whole tree. For many years past the Carolina Hemlock (*Tsuga caroliniana*) has received favorable comment in these Bulletins. It is as hardy as the Common Hemlock and if anyone doubts its superiority in beauty they have but to visit the Pinetum and inspect the specimens growing there. Its outline is broadly pyramidal and tapering with the main branches outthrust at right angles and the branchlets drooping and clustered to form tufted masses. The whole crown is an undulating, billowy mass of dark green illuminated at this season of the year by the young growth. No tree could be more lovely than the Carolina Hemlock at the present time.

We are apt to think of Conifers in the autumn and winter seasons only but their beauty at this moment is greater than at any other time of the year. Conifers strongly object to smoke and deleterious gases and for this reason are unsuited for planting in cities or in the

vicinity of factories. The majority are mountain plants and as such demand pure air. A number of species of Pine grow in the poorest of sandy soils and they, together with certain Junipers, withstand a certain amount of drought, but, on the whole, Conifers demand a constant supply of moisture at the roots. A good loam overlying clay and a sloping hillside is the ideal place for them. What has been written applies equally to the Yews, of which the Japanese species (*Taxus cuspidata*) and its varieties are among the most valuable plants northern gardens possess. The Yews are more tolerant of city conditions than are Conifers, so, if evergreens are needed in cities, Yews only are worth planting.

Pseudolarix amabilis. Attention is called to the group of this Conifer, the Chinese Golden Larch, immediately on the left entering from the Walter Street Gate. Like the Larch it is deciduous in character, its leaves changing to a rich golden yellow in the late autumn. The branches are wide-spreading, somewhat ascending and richly clothed in summer with emerald green leaves which are borne in whorls, each terminating a short, spur-like shoot. At the moment many spur-like shoots are crowned with lax clusters of male flowers arranged in erect catkins. Several of the lower branches are weighted down with these curious flowers which emit clouds of yellow pollen and are well-worth the inspection of students interested in botany.

On Bussey Hill, Albo-rosea with white flushed pink and Sekiyama with rose-pink blossoms, latest of the Japanese Cherries to flower, still make a brave display, their branches being thickly hung with rose-like blooms. The Dogwood remains in blossom, the earliest of the Brooms are pushing forth their gay-colored flowers, but the Torch Azalea (*Rhododendron obtusum Kaempferi*) now dominates the scene. This floriferous shrubs with its dazzling blossoms is at the height of its glory. It is perhaps the most spectacular of the whole race of Azaleas and the marvel is that a plant of such exotic appearance should be able to withstand the winters of Massachusetts. It prefers high land or at least a sloping bank and its flowers are seen to best advantage against a dark background of Hemlocks or other Conifers or under the shade of trees. It is a twiggy shrub, growing from 5 to 8 feet tall and as much in diameter, with the familiar characteristics of the so-called Indian Azalea. It does best when grouped thickly so that its branches shade the roots. On account of its color, which varies from salmon and crushed strawberry to flaming red, it needs careful placing for its full effect to be enjoyed. Although known in books since 1712 and a common plant on mountains from the extreme south to the northernmost island of Japan, it was utterly neglected by the early plant explorers in that land. Not until 1892, when the late Professor Sargent sent seeds to the Arboretum, was this Azalea introduced into cultivation. Had he done naught else but introduce this plant garden lovers would have just cause to bless his name. Of all the shrubs that Japan has contributed to the gardens of North America none is more strikingly handsome than this flaming Torch Azalea.



Winsome Azalea Vaseyi.

Azalea Vaseyi is a winsome plant and among the whole *Azalea* tribe there is no purer or more pleasing bit of pink than the gaping blossoms of this delightful shrub. The branches are slender and upright and there is an airiness and grace about the plant not common among the *Azaleas*. It is of easy culture but prefers a moist situation and if planted where its blossoms can be reflected in water its beauty is seen to two-fold advantage. Native of the higher mountains of western North Carolina, this *Azalea* was discovered in 1878 by George Vasey. It was introduced in 1880 into the Arboretum, where it has never known winter injury, and each year, toward the close of May, the groups of plants on the right and left of the Meadow Road are aglow with pink blossoms.

Diervilla Maximowiczii is now flowering freely on Centre Street Path and is very distinct from other species of *Diervilla*. A shrub some 3 to 5 feet tall, it has slender, arching branches and thin, bright green leaves. In color the flower is greenish yellow with a prominent orange-brown stripe on the lower corolla-lobe and throat. In other *Diervillas* the stamens are alternate with the corolla-lobes, but in this species they are collected under the upper part of the corolla and the anthers are united laterally. The flower is in appearance very much like that of a *Pentstemon*. Native of the margins of woodland and thickets from central Japan northward, *D. Maximowiczii* was introduced into cultivation by the Arboretum through seeds sent in 1914 from the Nikko region by Wilson. It is a very distinct and pleasing shrub and has proved quite hardy.

Kerria japonica and its double-flowered form *pleniflora* are old-fashioned plants which well deserve a place in gardens. They are twiggy shrubs sending up each year from the base a mass of shoots which remain bright green throughout the year. No other shrub, not even the green-stemmed Dogwood, has such cheerful shoots in the winter time. The flowers, borne along the whole length of the smooth, slender, arching stems, are a deep buttercup yellow and the double-flowered form strongly suggests a Rambler Rose. This plant does well against walls, on banks or high land, where it can enjoy good air and root drainage. Both forms are easily propagated from suckers and suffer from no disease or pest. After flowering the older canes should be cut clean away; no other pruning is necessary. *Kerria* is native of China and southern Japan, where it is also a favorite garden plant. The double-flowered form was introduced into cultivation from Canton so long ago as 1805. Our grandparents knew and appreciated it well and while it has been somewhat crowded out in later times *Kerria* is still one of the most beautiful of late spring-flowering shrubs. Visitors to rural parts of England may see the double-flowered form frequently trained as a curtain against the stone walls of thatched cottages.

E. H. W.